

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 59

As an attorney who has attempted for many years to use California laws to identify and weed out waste and corruption in local government, I am quite sympathetic to Proposition 59.

It is important, however, for voters to know what Proposition 59 would NOT do.

As written (by the State Legislature), Proposition 59 would continue to exempt from disclosure government records deemed "private" by the courts and would not apply at all to the *"confidentiality of proceedings and records of the Legislature, the Members of the Legislature, and its employees, committees and caucuses..."*.

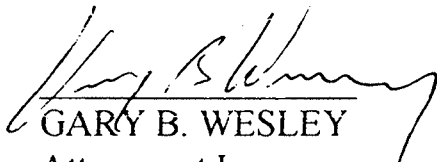
Voters should also consider that insofar as electing some top persons in government (i.e., having a representative democracy) is key to making career government bureaucrats more accountable, elections (especially for State Assembly, State Senate and Congress) have been undermined by:

- (1) the dependence on private, special interest campaign money (sometimes called "legalized bribes"), and
- (2) the self-serving creation (every 10 years) of gerrymandered legislative districts that protect incumbents from competition.

Moreover, anyone who blindly trusts a computer program to count votes (without any "paper trail" for potential verification) is foolish.

Sadly, we are a long way from having true representative democracy in California - and across America.

Government is getting bigger and becoming more wasteful, insular and abusive. Proposition 59 would not do much to reverse that alarming trend.


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